

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing bids ~~transactions~~
5 involving financial securities in a secondary market, said method comprising the steps of:
establishing a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each
of said market segments having at least one market participant, wherein a pull market of
each market participant is based on one or more push market segments defined by other
market participants;

10 receiving a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one
or more authorized market segments;

dividing by a processor device said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

posting by said processor device each of said divided bids to one or more
of said authorized market segments; and

15 comparing by said processor device each posted divided bid to other
pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids
that are in proximity to each divided bid.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
20 the step of preventing one or more of said divided bids ~~bid~~ from being posted to market
participants not in said one or more authorized market segments.

3. (Cancelled)

25 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
the step of establishing a communication channel between entities associated with two of
said compared bids that are in proximity.

30 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein two bids are in
proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

6.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for processing bids transactions involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

5 a memory that stores computer-readable code; and
a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant, wherein a pull market of
10 each market participant is based on one or more push market segments defined by other
market participants;

receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

15 post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

compare each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid.

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18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent one or more of said divided bids ~~bid~~ from being posted to market participants not in said one or more authorized market segments.

25 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured to establish a communication channel between entities associated with two of said compared bids that are in proximity.

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21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein two bids are in proximity if they have parameters that are within a given threshold of each other.

22.-31. (Cancelled)

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32. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~A tangible article of manufacture processing bids ~~transactions~~ involving financial securities in a secondary market, comprising:

10 a tangible computer readable recordable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means being executable by a processor comprising:

15 a step to establish a plurality of market segments in said secondary market, each of said market segments having at least one market participant, wherein a pull market of each market participant is based on one or more push market segments defined by other market participants;

a step to receive a bid for one or more financial securities, said bid including one or more authorized market segments;

a step to divide said bid into a plurality of divided bids;

20 a step to post each of said divided bids to one or more of said authorized market segments; and

a step to compare each posted divided bid to other pending bids in one or more of said authorized market segments to identify pending bids that are in proximity to each divided bid.

25 33.-35. (Cancelled)